

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049367

USOECN, USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, OECD

SUBJECT: USHIBA/VAN LENNEP MEETING TO DISCUSS JAPANESE
ECONOMIC POLICIES

REF: PARIS 3635

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATED REPORT ON SUBJECT MEETING.
WE CONCUR WITH VAN LENNEP'S COMMENTS AND ENCOURAGE HIM
TO CONTINUE THIS TYPE OF INFORMAL ECONOMIC POLICY
DISCUSSION WITH GOJ OFFICIALS. WE PARTICULARLY WELCOME
FACT THAT VAN LENNEP ALLUDED TO THE NEED FOR SOME LONGER
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TERM STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE JAPANESE ECONOMY, I.E.
TOWARD A STRONGER CONSUMER ORIENTATION. WE BELIEVE
DISCUSSION OF THESE KINDS OF ISSUES ARE PREFERABLE
IN MULTILATERAL FORA SUCH AS THE OECD TO BILATERAL
REPRESENTATIONS SO AS TO AVOID POSSIBLE GOJ CRITICISM
OF NATIONAL INTERFERENCE WITH ITS DOMESTIC POLICIES.
WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE SECRETARIAT TO TAKE LEAD IN

ANALYZING JAPANESE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AS IT
RELATES TO JAPAN'S EXTERNAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE.

2. WE BELIEVE THE EDRC WOULD ALSO AFFORD AN EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A MULTILATERAL DISCUSSION OF SOME
OF THESE ISSUES. THE OECD, WE UNDERSTAND, IS

TENTATIVELY SCHEDULING THE EDRC REVIEW OF JAPAN FOR THIS
JUNE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION ASCERTAINING
PROPOSED DATES FOR EDRC REVIEW AND TIMETABLE OF
SECRETARIAT'S PREPARATIONS. WE MAY WISH TO CONSULT
WITH SECRETARIAT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

VANCE

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